

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1063
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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 1561

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJECT: "JERUSALEM POST" MISINFORMATION ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL
FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON

1. THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE ENTITLED "BEIRUT TURNS DOWN TERMS
FOR PULLBACK" WHICH APPEARED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE "JERUSALEM
POST" JUNE 8 IS REPORTED IN ITS ENTIRETY.

2. QTE PLANS FOR ISRAEL'S FINAL PULLBACK FROM SOUTH LEBANON
NEXT TUESDAY WERE PLACED IN DOUBT LAST NIGHT AMID REPORTS OF
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN BEIRUT AND JERUSALEM OVER SECURITY ARRANGE-
MENTS IN THE AREA.

3. OFFICIALS IN JERUSALEM HAVE DECLINED TO COMMENT, APPARENTLY
PENDING DISCUSSIONS THAT DEFENSE MINISTER EZER WEIZMAN AND
CHIEF OF STAFF RAV-ALUF RAFAEL EITAN PLAN TO CONDUCT WITH THE
COMMANDER OF UN MIDDLE EAST FORCES, GEN ENSIO SIILASVUO. THE
FINNISH GENERAL HAS BEEN SHUTTLING BETWEEN ISRAEL AND
LEBANON AND IS SCHEDULED TO RETURN TO BEIRUT LATER THIS WEEK
ON AN 11TH HOUR MISSION TO OBTAIN LEBANESE AGREEMENT TO
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ISRAEL'S VIEWS.

4. THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT YESTERDAY WAS REPORTED BY THE
BEIRUT PRESS TO HAVE REJECTED WHAT WAS DESCRIBED AS A
SERIES OF ISRAEL CONDITIONS - AMONG THEM A WISH TO KEEP
FOUR OUTPOSTS ACROSS THE BORDER WITH LEBANON. THEIR
LOCATIONS WERE NOT DISCLOSED. HOWEVER, WELL-INFORMED

SOURCES SAID THAT THE OUTPOSTS PROBABLY WERE THOSE WHICH ISRAEL MAINTAINED BEFORE ITS INCURSION INTO LEBANON LAST MARCH. ISRAEL HAS ALREADY STAGED A THREE-PHASED WITHDRAWAL FROM THE BULK OF THE REGION.

5. IN ADDITION TO THE FOUR OBSERVATION POSTS, ISRAEL WAS REPORTED TO HAVE MADE THREE OTHER MAJOR CONDITIONS:
--THAT THERE BE NO PALESTINIAN OR SYRIAN PRESENCE IN SOUTH LEBANON UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.
--THAT ONLY TROOPS OF THE UN INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON - UNIFIL - BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE LAST OF THE AREAS TO BE RELINQUISHED BY ISRAEL NEXT TUESDAY.
--THAT TROOPS OF LEBANON'S REGROUPED ARMY DO NOT ENTER "CERTAIN AREAS" ON THE BORDER - AN APPARENT REFERENCE TO THE ISRAEL-SUPPORTED CHRISTIAN ENCLAVES COMMANDED BY MAJ. SAAD HADDAD.

6. THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT HAS REJECTED THESE CONDITIONS, IT WAS REPORTED FROM BEIRUT. THE GOVERNMENT ALSO REPORTEDLY REJECTED ISRAEL'S DEMAND THAT HADDAD RETAIN HIS COMAND OVER BORDER AREAS.

7. ISRAEL'S CONDITIONS WERE FORWARDED THROUGH GEN SIILASVUO, WHO ON MONDAY MET IN BEIRUT WITH PREMIER SELIM EL-HOSS, DEFENSE AND FOREIGN MINISTER FUAD BUTROS, INTERIOR MINISTER SALAH SALMAN AND CHIEF OF STAFF GEN VICTOR KHOURY.
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8. STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES WERE REPORTED LAST NIGHT TO HAVE SAID THEY HAD RECEIVED NO INDICATION OF ISRAEL'S INTENTION TO HOLD ON TO THE FOUR OUTPOSTS.

9. MEANWHILE, THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY SUGGESTED TO THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION THAT IT UNITE ALL ITS FACTIONS INTO ONE ARMY SUBJECTING ITSELF TO THE PLO'S DISIPLINE AND LEBANON'S SOVEREIGNTY.

10. IN A HEAVILY-CENSORED INTERVIEW PUBLISHED BY BEIRUT'S "A-SAFIR," THE HEAD OF THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE GENERAL COMMAND, AHMED JIBRIL, SAID THAT "THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES PREFER, AND SOME PALESTINIAN LEADERS AGREE, THAT THE ARMED PALESTINIAN FORCES SHOULD BE GATHERED INTO A PALESTINIAN ARMY THAT WOULD BE THE ARMED WING OF THE PLO."

11. JIBRIL SAID THAT THE INTENT OF THE SUGGESTION WAS TO "STRENGTHEN AGREEMENTS WITH THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES" AND PROVIDE THE PLO WITH "A LEGITIMATE PRESENCE...TO COUNTER CLAIMS ABOUT ITS ILLEGITIMATE DEPLOYMENT" IN LEBANON.

12. ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTED THAT PREMIER HOSS TOOK A "MORALE BOOSTING" TOUR OF SOUTHERN LEBANESE BORDER TOWNS YESTERDAY TO PREPARE FOR THE PROJECTED ENTRY OF LEBANESE ARMY UNITS INTO THE REGION.

13. "WE WANT THE LEGITIMATE ARMY TO COME TO US, TO PROTECT US," BYSTANDERS SHOUTED AS THE PREMIER DROVE THROUGH THE TOWNS. "WE WANT YOUR HELP TO REBUILD OUR TOWN. WE WANT SCHOOLS, A HOSPITAL, A SECURITY FORCE..WE WANT TRANQUILITY."

14. ONE INCIDENT ON THE TOUR DEMONSTRATED HOW PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS STILL HOLD SWAY IN PARTS OF SOUTH LEBANON.
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OUTSIDE HASBAYA, A DOZEN TERRORISTS WITH RUSSIAN-MADE AUTOMATIC RIFLES GREETED THE PREMIER AND ESCORTED HIS MOTORCADE INTO TOWN. UNQUOTE

15. COMMENT: UNHQ JERUSALEM SAYS IT HAS INFORMED NEW YORK ABOVE STORY INACCURATE.
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